

Handwriting Wizards

Cursive



Verbalizations for Cursive Letters

In the introductory lesson for each new letter, use verbalizations- language that describes which way the students have to move their hands to form the letter correctly.

Use the verbalizations while you demonstrate how to write the letter and as your students trace the large model of the letter in their handwriting books. On the next page, where the children trace small models of the letter, you can stop giving verbal instructions.

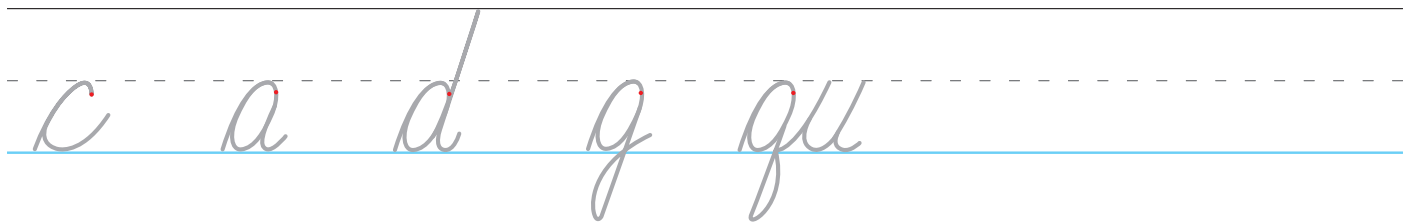
Below are suggested verbalizations for the lowercase cursive letters. Your students do not need to memorize these verbalizations, but they may find them useful as a reference.

When it comes time to teach the capital letters, use your own verbalizations. Just remember to always emphasize the starting line and directional changes for each letter.

Lowercase Cursive Letter Groups

- Remember, all lowercase letters begin at the blue line, except for letters that follow a bridge letter: *v*, *b*, *w*, or *o*. Since bridge letters end slightly below the dotted line, that is where the next letter will begin.
- Every letter should end with a short upward stroke to connect it to the next letter or as the final stroke.
- When students are writing words in cursive, remind them that they should never pick up their pencils until the end of the word. Then they go back to dot the i's, cross the t's etc.

Curvy Letters



c = curve up to the dot, stop, turn back toward the red line, sit on the blue line

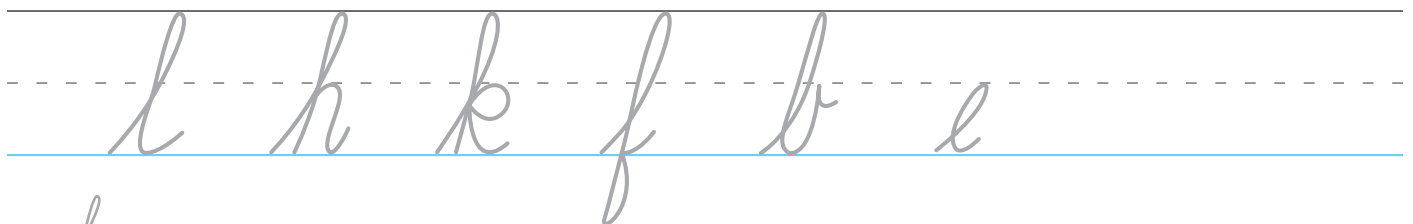
a = curve up to the dot, stop, turn back toward the red line, sit on the blue, close the circle, and pull down to the blue

d = curve up to the dot, stop, turn back toward the red line, sit on the blue, close the circle, up to the black line, and pull down to the blue

g = curve up to the dot, stop, turn back toward the red line, sit on the blue, close the circle, pull down past the blue, turn toward the red, close the loop and cross at the blue line

qu = curve up to the dot, stop, turn back toward the red line, sit on the blue, close the circle, pull down past the blue, turn away from the red, and close the loop at the blue line

Tall Letters



l = swing up to the black line, turn toward the red, pull down to the blue

h = swing up to the black line, turn toward the red, pull down to the blue, back up to the dotted line, around, and down to the blue

k = swing up to the black line, turn toward the red, pull down to the blue, back up to the dotted line, around, in and out

f = swing up to the black line, turn toward the red, pull down past the blue, turn away from the red, and close the loop at the blue line

b = swing up to the black line, turn toward the red, pull down to the blue, turn away from the red, up to the dotted line, and bridge

e = (small *b*) swing up to the dotted line, turn toward the red, pull down to the blue

Rocket Letters



i = swing up to the dotted line, down to the blue, dot

u = swing up to the dotted line, down to the blue, back up to the dotted line, down to the blue

t = swing up past the dotted line, down to the blue, cross at the dotted line

w = swing up to the dotted line, down to the blue, up to the dotted line, down to the blue, up to the dotted line, and bridge

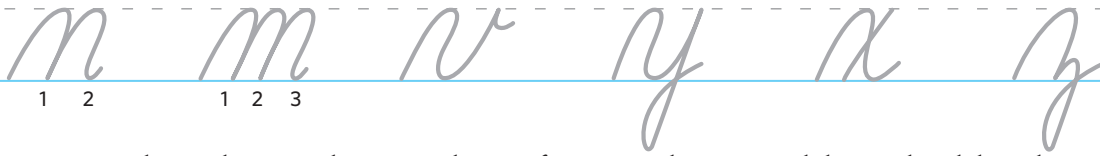
j = swing up to the dotted line, pull straight down past the blue line, turn toward the red, close the loop and cross at the blue line, dot

p = swing up to the dotted line, pull straight down past the blue line, turn toward the red, close the loop just below the dotted line, around and down to the blue, close the circle

r = swing up to the dotted line, curve down slightly away from the red, pull down to the blue. (only hit the dotted line once)

s = swing up to the dotted line, pull down and give it a belly, close it up, back out

Hill Letters



The numerals indicate the number of times the pencil hits the blue line and the number of hills the letters have.

n = swing up and around to the dotted line, down to the blue (1), back up to the dotted line, around and down to the blue (2) (2 hills)

m = swing up and around to the dotted line, down to the blue, back up to the dotted line, around and down to the blue, back up, around and down to the blue (1,2,3)

v = swing up and around to the dotted line, down to the blue, turn away from the red and up to the dotted line, bridge

y = swing up and around to the dotted line, down to the blue, turn away from the red and up to the dotted line, pull down, turn to the red, close the loop and cross at the blue

x = swing up and around to the dotted line, down to the blue, lift pencil to dotted line, and cross toward the red

z = swing up and around to the dotted line, down to the blue, back up, turn away from the red, little hill, pull down past the blue, turn toward the red, close the loop and cross at the blue

Oddball Letter o



o = swing up to the dotted line, turn back to red, close the circle and loop

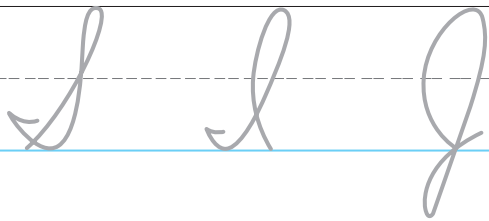
Capital Cursive Letter Groups

All capitals are connected to the next letter except *D, O, P, U, W* and *X*.

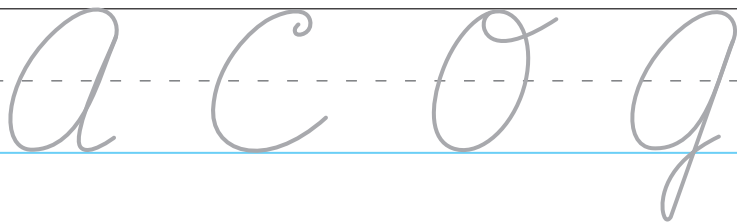
Several capitals end like the bottom part of a boat. Demonstrate this association to facilitate the verbalization *make a boat*.



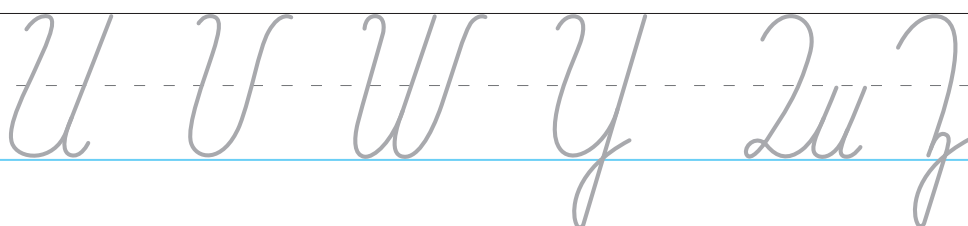
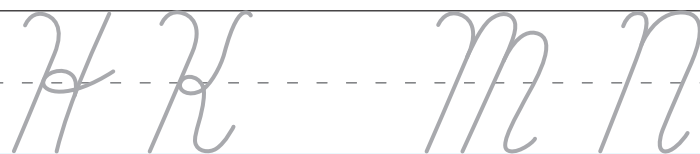
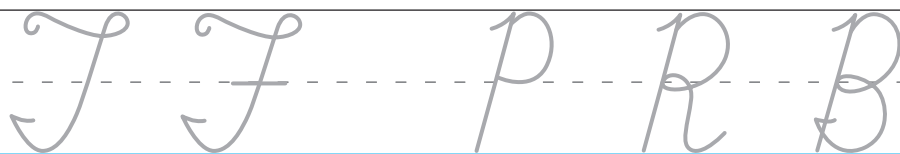
All capitals begin at the top except these:



These four letters have the same motor patterns as their lower-case partners.



The following letters are grouped by similar motor patterns.



Each of the remaining letters has its own motor pattern.

D L E X

